

June 25, 2001

Mr. Kevin F. Borton, Manager Licensing
Exelon Generation
300 Exelon Way
KSB3-S
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Dear Mr. Borton:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information that may be helpful to you in preparing for the next public meeting between the Exelon and the NRC staff on the preapplication review of the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor (PBMR) regarding your licensing approach. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17-18, 2001, at NRC Headquarters in Rockville MD.

In the last meeting between the Exelon and the NRC staff on the preapplication review of the PBMR on June 12-13, 2001, you presented a licensing approach by which you would use criteria to determine the applicability of NRC regulations to the PBMR design. The NRC staff indicated that, to better understand your approach, it would find it useful for you to assess a sample of regulations using your approach.

The staff has further assessed your proposal and requests that you should specifically assess examples from three categories of regulations: (1) technical, (2) special treatment, and (3) process. Specifically, regarding technical regulations, the staff would like for you to assess 10 CFR 50.46, *Acceptance Criteria for Emergency Core Cooling Systems for Light-Water Nuclear Power Reactors*, 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, Criterion 13, *Instrumentation and Control*, and 10 CFR 50, Appendix A, Criterion 30, *Quality of Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary*. Regarding special treatment regulations, the staff would like for you to assess 10 CFR 50.49, *Environmental Qualification of Electric Equipment Important to Safety for Nuclear Power Plants*. Regarding process regulations, the staff would like for you to assess 10 CFR 50.59, *Changes, Tests, and Experiments*. The staff feels that the regulations recommended for assessment will provide insight into the acceptability of your approach. The staff requests that you present the results of these assessments, as well as assessments of any other regulations you have chosen, at the next meeting between the Exelon and the NRC staff on the preapplication review of the PBMR scheduled for July 17-18, 2001. In addition, the staff requests that, if you identify any necessary changes to your licensing approach as a result of these assessments, you should also present these changes at the July 17-18, 2001, meeting and document these changes in a letter to the NRC.

K. Borton

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If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact either me (301-415-5790) or Stuart Rubin (301-415-7480).

Sincerely,

/RA/

Thomas L. King, Director
Division of Risk Analysis & Applications
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

Project No. 713

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